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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,267	12/15/2000	Alson Kemp	TRIPP013	1642

22434 7590 10/20/2003
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DANNY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2836

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,267

Applicant(s)

KEMP ET AL.

Examiner

Danny Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10- 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10- 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 10-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dobkin et al (USPN 5,334,928).

Regarding to claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, Dobkin et al. disclose an over-voltage protection circuit (see fig. 1 and 2) comprises amplifier circuitry (200) for amplifying an input signal, switch circuitry (120) connected to and passing current between an input voltage (102) and a supply voltage (104), switch control circuitry (such as 200, 210, 200 shown fig. 2) for sensing the supply voltage and regulating current flow through the switch circuitry in response thereto, wherein the switch control circuitry comprises a three terminal regulator (the drive terminal, feedback terminal, and ground terminal of the circuit 110) configured as a voltage controlled current source to provide a control signal to control the switching circuit (see col. 6, lines 3-35), wherein an output of the regulator coupled to the supply voltage (104) such that a change in the supply voltage

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varies an output current from the regulator, and thereby varies an input current to the regulator from the control signal (the drive signal) is generated.

Regarding to claim 7, Dobkin et al disclose a divider (300 comprising R10 and R11) for sensing the supply voltage.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edwards (USPN 5,025,203) in view of Neahr II et al (USPN 4,757,542). Edwards discloses an automobile audio system an over-voltage protection circuit (see fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 6-12) comprises over-voltage protection circuitry disposed between a battery (4) and a supply voltage (12), switch circuitry (10) connected to and passing current between an input voltage (4) and a supply voltage (12), switch control circuitry (such as 32 and 16) for sensing the supply voltage and regulating current flow through the switch circuitry in response thereto, wherein the switch control circuitry comprises a three terminal regulator (16) configured as a voltage controlled current source to provide a control signal to control the switching circuit (see col. 3, lines 4-30), wherein an output of the regulator coupled to the supply voltage (104) such that a change in the supply voltage varies an output current from the regulator, and thereby varies an input current to the

regulator from the control signal (18) is generated. Ewards only discloses an automobile electronic module not specifically an audio system. Neahr II et al disclose an example of an automobile electronic module (see fig. 1) in form of a speech synthesizer that uses an amplifier (18) to amplify audio input signals and provides these signals to a speaker (20). It would have been obvious to one having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the speech synthesizer unit of Neahr, II et al as the electronic module of Ewards because Neahr II teaches that providing an audio warning to vehicle operator is beneficial (col. 1, lines 10-15).

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobkin et al in view of Kiyoshi Inoue (USPN 3,604,885). Dobkin et al disclose all limitations of claim 1 except for having a plurality of transistors coupled in parallel. Kiyoshi Inoue disclose a plurality of transistors (4) coupled in parallel (shown in fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one having skill in the art to modify the system of Dobkin et al with a plurality of transistors in parallel as taught by Kiyoshi Inoue in order to increase current capability (col. 8, lines 17-19).

4. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobkin et al in view of Walker (USPN 4,887,021). Dobkin et al disclose the pass transistor (120), but do not disclose the transistor being replaced by NMOS and PMOS transistors. Walker discloses transistor is MOSFETs including PMOS and NMOS transistor (see col. 9, lines 37-42). It would have been obvious to one having skill in the art to modify the switching transistor of Dobkin et al PMOS and NMOS as taught by Walker in order to control current and voltage rise time (col. 4, lines 48-54).

Conclusion

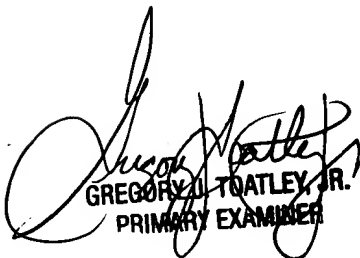
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)-305-5988. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703)-308-3119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-305-1341 for regular communications and (703)-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-0956.

DN

D.N.
October 15, 2003


GREGORY D. TOATLEY, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER